

5-22-1859

# Letter from Sarah Whitney, to Anne Whitney, 1859 May 22

Sarah Whitney

Wellesley College Archives

Follow this and additional works at: [https://repository.wellesley.edu/whitney\\_correspondence](https://repository.wellesley.edu/whitney_correspondence)

---

## Recommended Citation

Whitney, Sarah and Wellesley College Archives, "Letter from Sarah Whitney, to Anne Whitney, 1859 May 22" (1859). *Papers of Anne Whitney (MSS.4): Correspondence*. 2125.  
[https://repository.wellesley.edu/whitney\\_correspondence/2125](https://repository.wellesley.edu/whitney_correspondence/2125)

This Correspondence is brought to you for free and open access by the Papers of Anne Whitney (MSS.4) at Wellesley College Digital Scholarship and Archive. It has been accepted for inclusion in Papers of Anne Whitney (MSS.4): Correspondence by an authorized administrator of Wellesley College Digital Scholarship and Archive. For more information, please contact [ir@wellesley.edu](mailto:ir@wellesley.edu).

My dear sister  
a loving good  
bye with love  
to all who  
love me  
In Sarah

Ad I don't know what I wrote but you  
My dear sister  
a loving good  
bye with love  
to all who  
love me  
In Sarah

Sunday May, 22<sup>nd</sup> '89

The Revd A. B. Fuller guards the church,  
the weather guards the woods - so my dear  
Sam - in the absence of company & the  
presence of an assistant cook, I am  
moved to anticipate the letter writing  
day to say a few <sup>things</sup> forgotten in other letters.  
Firstly of a Daphn-Odora wh Mary has  
raised & is keeping for you, whose peculiar  
beauty she pointed out to me many weeks  
ago & wished me to relate to you. A  
young, vigorous plant was surmounted by  
a crescent shaped crown of flowers wh perpet-  
ually renewed itself by putting out new  
buds in place of the falling blossoms - thus  
retaining for weeks, if not months, its orig-  
inal form, freshness & sweetness. I have  
never seen its like, & will gladly believe  
it (as doubtless our friend does) typical  
of the life of my beloved sister. Be  
gladly welcoming the May flowers - like of

the valley - the beautiful blue glay  
flower &c. & Mary now w<sup>th</sup> Mary is  
wishing to send to you to hide if possible  
the memory of that unfortunate bouquet  
upon wh. she spent so much thought &  
love. I cannot forgive my treacherous mem-  
ory wh. neglected to say to James that the  
package was to go by "Thompson's Express",  
for thereby you might have seen yr. flowers  
before "decay" touched them, & Mary w<sup>ld</sup> have  
been spared a great disappointment. I  
hope she did not send Mr Lyman upon  
a bootless errand, in directing him to call  
at Appletons for a copy of those slow  
coming 'Poems'. The secret having been  
whispered abroad during the last week,  
yr. friends are becoming impatient &  
will, I fear excite the ire of Boston  
booksellers by their frequent inquiries.  
I saw M. on Fri. when she was rejoicing  
in the arrival of her friend Miss Halli-  
boston whom she was expecting to meet in  
B. yesterday. The finer lady! I am a little afraid  
of her.



The last of my visitors, Rebekah & Hannah departed Friday P. M. declaring that they had had a delightful time in spite of clouds & north east winds. Every day gave intervals of pleasant weather wh. we seized for out door fun, & reading, talking & working fill<sup>ed</sup> up the indoor time. I enjoyed it much, but still more do I enjoy the new interest & increasing love with wh. I regard Carrie - comparing her virtues & defects with those of our marriageable friends. She has reported herself very sweetly & obtained I think the love of all our guests. The windows are in the new house, but the carpenters w<sup>ill</sup> still farther hardening of the plastering before putting up the finishing wood work - after that, will come the many coatings of paint, each of wh. will have to be thoroughly dried - all of wh. it seems to me must carry the completed & furnished residence into Sept. at least. So far we are comfort.

able & contented to let things take their course, though it may seem slow to outsiders.

Mr Ames is about to resign his Clerkship having been appointed Judge & we look with anxiety for the new appointment of Clerk - as upon the whom will depend, further resignation or continuance in office. He, & his co-labourers have promised to Mr Ripley their favorable word if consulted in the matter.

I wanted to go to N. Newton to day to see Mr. L. who has concluded to go this week to Northampton - but the May storm will prevent me. Whether all through this Anniversary week it will prevent my other plans, it remains to be seen. I think the time past will suffice for falling weather & that the coming days will be glorious in sunshine & greenery - but the birds will not sing more merrily than they now do. I wish you could have heard 10 days ago the stormy conversation wh. the bob-o-links held in our apple trees - the strange sounds even blinded my eyes so that I did not recognize the well known dress of our merry friends.



But when the debate wh. rivaled that  
of the woman's rights meeting in N.Y.  
for noisiness, was ended, the old  
familiar song reminded us, that by being  
the exception, bobolinks helped to form  
the rule - "birds in their little nests agree".  
I have heard of three of these meetings, the  
first, one P.M. - the 2nd on the next A.M. &  
the 3rd wh. I heard, that afternoon - since,  
they have scattered & sing in their old way.  
Can you remember how? I hope the fiery  
debaters of N.Y. & Boston will follow their  
example - & yet ~~this week~~ I I'd like  
this week to letters to some of the men who  
are "great but to think & dare", even if there  
is some clattering among the My bones.  
Thurs. evng. - The wondrous beauty of the morning  
tempted me into the city, though it seemed  
a sin to leave the country - & while others  
were seeking edification from some Uni-  
tarian Abbie, I joyed in the thought of  
ye possible return, finding in that thought  
more potency than any advanced by Messrs  
Hall, Livimov, Woodbury. etc. J. Freeman

Clarke did say some good things  
but otherwise the meeting of the  
A. Association so far as I heard it was  
very tame. Edward & Carrie have stopped  
to the collation at wh the "Professor" pre-  
sides - If he but talks as well as in the  
May No. of the Atlantic, I think they may  
be paid for going - In the P.M. we strayed  
into the "Christian Anti Slavery meeting",  
where one Orthodox preacher's prayer &  
another's speech not coming up to our  
ideal of A.S. talk, we walked out  
determined to try for something better to-mor-  
row or next day among the infidels. I  
am thoroughly worn out with such unwarmed  
dissipation, but feel that while waiting  
for my little bedfellow to get safely out of  
the honors of twilight fancies in a strange  
bed, I must deliver "the world of love" wh  
Mary & night entrusted to my care for yr  
special benefit. Yesterday, Mother &  
Uncle Moses, having heard of the dangerous  
illness of Uncle Sam<sup>l</sup>, <sup>with paralysis</sup> went to Lowell. They



found him more comfortable but not  
free from the danger of another attack  
wh. wld probably prove fatal. Whether this  
will affect Mother's desire to go to N. Y. I  
don't know. She brought home for a  
fortnight's visit, Grace Edward's little girl,  
who, removed from parental influence  
seems a remarkably good child.

I am dreadfully sorry for yr disappoint-  
ment about the book - but trust that other  
eyes will not be so sharp sighted to see  
its defects. Mr Lyman sailed on Sat. so  
you will possibly know if he was able to  
obtain the copy for Mr P. I did not tell  
Mary yr desire excepting that you wld  
prefer to send one of the last hundred,  
feeling that if in her kindness, the deed  
was done, there was no use in making  
her uncomfortable about it. She &  
many other of Mr P's friends feel more  
encouraged by those last accounts of his  
health than you do. Dr Hosmer says he  
need not expect to be free from cough



for two years. To be gaining <sup>in</sup> strength  
& bodily health in that warm cli-  
mate seems to me very favorable. At  
least we will hope for better things  
while there is so much good.

Thurs. evg. I have not yet obtained the  
Carpenter's estimate, but have spoken  
to Mr. Flora respecting it. Being engaged  
for Edward, I thought ~~it~~ likely he'd  
do it more conveniently than Mr.  
Hodgeson - I fear yr. place will en-  
sure a place rather tophetic in summer  
weather if not Siberian in winter but  
it will I trust be better for you than  
N.Y. & for me I am sure it will be  
infinitely better. I don't quite compre-  
hend yr. present arrangements - do you  
take the child to N.Y. or have you 2 studios?  
Mr. L. & Maria came over this P.M. to  
take me over as they said for a visit - but  
I had to say nay, as I am going tomorrow with  
Mary for city nutriment - Not as E. & C. did  
last evg. to look down from the gallery of  
the Music Hall upon the fortunate feasters  
while they above had to go hungry except with  
the feast of reason - But in spite of the  
somewhat absurd & textuising position they  
had a grand time wh. they wd. not be sorry  
to repeat - The Professor was brilliant & all  
his company were in fitting mood.

~~I do not know~~. Thurs. A.M. As I don't know what I don't know I will bid you  
my dear sister  
a loving good  
bye with love  
to all who  
love me  
yr Sarah